What Are They Up To Now? Updates on Policy from the AZ Legislature



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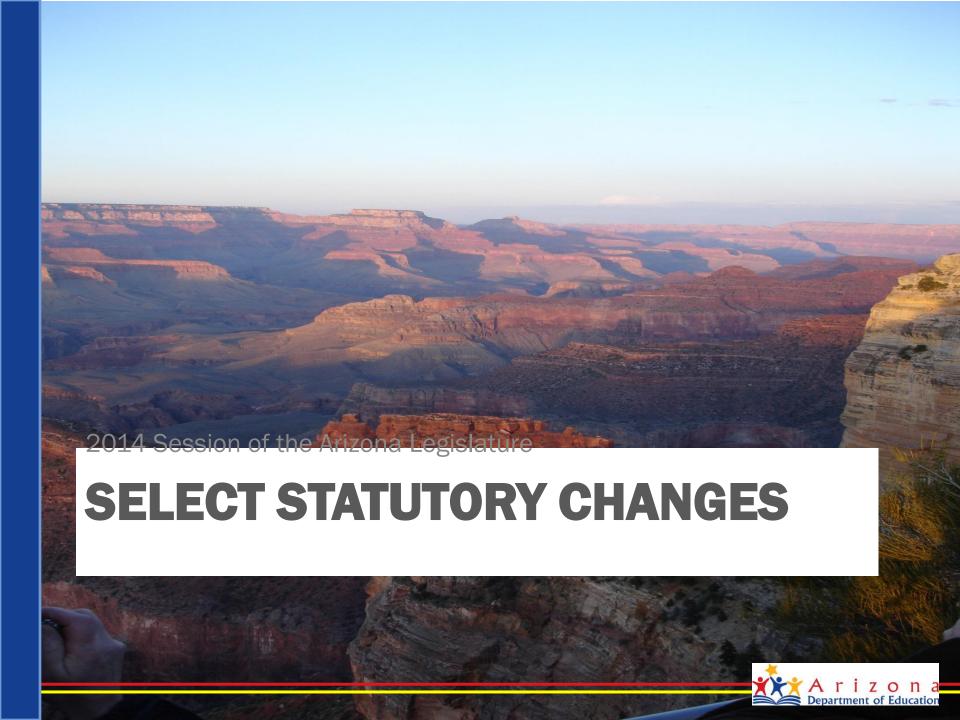
Arizona Department of Education

What Are We Doing?

- Review selected changes to Arizona education law affecting schools*
- Review Legislative Activity Regarding Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards
- Brief Explanation of ESEA Flexibility (Waiver Process)
- Questions

*A full list of this year's Legislative changes is available at http://www.azed.gov/policy





FY2015 Budget Bills

- \$74.6M inflation factor (1.4%)
- \$24.5M district sponsored charter schools
- \$20M Student Success Funding
- \$12M AELAS Data System
- \$1M Information Technology Certifications
- \$847K Technology Based Language Pilot

HB2703, HB2711, SB1188 (Ch. 18, 16, 17)



District Sponsored Charter Schools

- Funded at \$24.5M for FY2015 (formula is \$33M).
- Beginning in FY2016, all DSCS not in operation before July 1, 2013 must convert back to traditional district schools.
- DSCS operating before July 1, 2013 may continue, but are subject to an enrollment growth cap of 20% above FY2013 ADM.



Student Success Funding

- \$20M distributed based on both proficiency levels and student growth, as measured by state assessment.
- Proficiency levels correspond to falls far below, approaches, meets, or exceeds proficiency.
- Growth corresponds roughly to below average SGP, above average SGP, and top 17% SGP.
- Per-student amounts range from \$61.25 to \$6.00



School Finance

- Largely technical changes, except:
- Prohibits public schools from charging fees that have the effect of preventing students from applying to, enrolling in, or remaining enrolled in a school.
- Prohibition on the counting of route miles by more than one school district for the same student.
- Provision allowing supplemental state aid to Yarnell School District due to fire damage (and any future district with similar issues)

SB1350 (Ch. 226)



School Finance (Contd.)

- Voters of a school district meeting certain criteria may petition the county school superintendent to hold an election to transform the district to a transporting district. (HB2438, Ch. 61)
- Language advocating for or against an override or bond measure is strictly confined to the "arguments" section of the election pamphlet.

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

- 100-day previous year enrollment requirement is waived for students in military families. (HB2150, Ch. 200)
- Siblings of students on an ESA are eligible beginning in school year 15-16.
- Students who qualify for publicly funded preschool are eligible for direct enrollment beginning in school year 15-16.

(HB2139, Ch. 199)



Instruction

- If test data is not available for a third grade student before the beginning of the fourth grade, that student may not be retained in third grade. (HB2637, Ch. 214)
- A computer science course deemed "sufficiently rigorous" by a local board may count for the 4th required math credit for HS graduation. (HB2265, Ch. 137)
- A critical languages pilot program was established, but awaits future funding. If funded, it will provide a pilot for seven schools, in Chinese, Spanish, and additional languages including Native American languages. (SB1242, Ch. 114)



Accountability/Certification

- Scores on AIMS Science will be included in school achievement profiles for A-F letter grades (State Board to determine implementation). (SB1288, Ch. 116)
- The State Board of Education may include survey data in A-F letter grades. (HB2637, Ch. 214)
- The State Board of Education must adopt rules to allow suicide prevention training to be counted as continuing education clock hours toward certificate renewal. (HB 2605, Ch. 272)



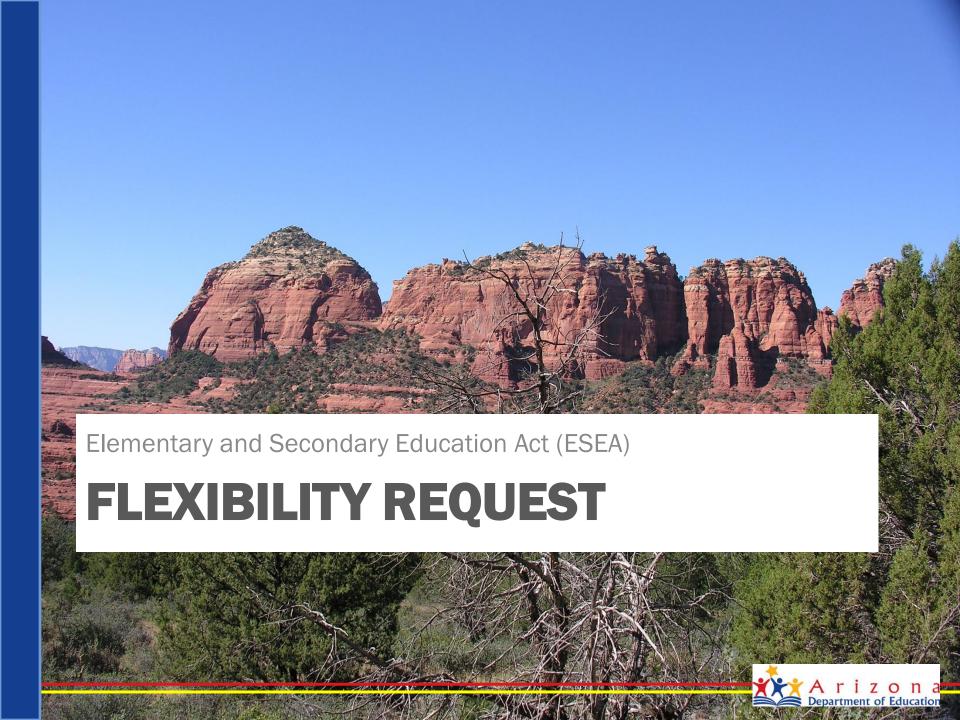


Anti-Standards Legislation

- HB2316 schools; local control; student privacy (Veto)
- SB1095 withdrawal from PARCC (held)
- SB1310 schools; common core; prohibition (Failed)

- SB1395 schools; competency requirements; assessments; optional (Failed)
- SB1388 schools; academic standards; tests (Held)





What is ESEA Flexibility?

- In exchange for meeting certain criteria, the U.S.
 Department of Education grants exemptions from some of the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
 - 100% proficiency requirement
 - The placement of schools in federal school improvement
 - Requirement for Title I dollars to be used for supplemental instruction



What Do We Have To Do?

- College and Career Ready Standards (AZ already met as of 2010)
- Teacher evaluation system based on student growth
- A "significant factor" of teacher evaluation tied directly to student growth in tested grades/subjects (Group A)
- HS graduation rate to comprise 15% of A-F letter grade profiles for high schools.



So What?

- ADE is charged with implementing the requirements of flexibility.
- Much of the "churn" that you are experiencing in evaluation systems is a result of the requirements of flexibility, not decisions that the state is making.
- ADE is constantly pleading the case of educators on the ground to USDOE.

Questions?



I will do my best to answer

Thank You



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